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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/852,883	05/11/2001	Steven J. Vornsand	7187	5408
7590	05/03/2007	Zenith Electronics Corporation 2000 Millbrook Drive Lincolnshire, IL 60069	EXAMINER YENKE, BRIAN P	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	2622		
MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	05/03/2007	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>
	09/852,883	VORNSAND, STEVEN J.
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>
	BRIAN P. YENKE	2622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on Response (19 Apr 07).
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**.                    2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 31-47 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 31-47 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
    1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

**DETAILED ACTION**

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. Based upon applicant's support of the newly added limitations to the claims filed 16 Jan 07, the examiner has withdrawn the Finality of the previous office action and thus the rejection based upon new matter. It is noted that the examiner has reviewed the applicant's specification and the confirmation signal being sent to confirm performance of a function also described as modifying it's operation, and thus since modifying it's operation and performance of a function are one in the same, the examiner maintains the previous rejections of the claims with the previous cited art as stated below.

***Response to Arguments***

2. Applicant's arguments filed 19 April 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

***Applicant's Arguments***

a) Applicant states that the examiner's characterization of Ben-Ze'ev of a remote controller that periodically interrogates the status of remote device is inaccurate, since there is no disclosure or suggestion that the appliances supply their statuses to the remote controller. Applicant also states that column 13, lines 44-50 of Ben-Ze'ev merely states that the remote controller receives alert signals from the applicant and thus the alerts are not in response to a commanded function or an interrogation.

b) Applicant states that Shintani does not disclose that its confirmation signal confirms that the television has modified its operation as commanded. The confirmation signal merely confirms that a valid instruction has been received by the television.

***Examiner's Response***

a) The examiner disagrees. It is noted that Ben-Ze'ev in numerous instances discloses that the appliances supply their status to the remote controller (col 5, line 47-62, col 9, line 52-59). As shown in Fig 1, as well as col 7, line 38-40, Ben-Ze'ev is a system which allows a user to control appliances/devices from a distance with a remote control and also ascertain the status/condition of such appliances by being able to receive signals from the appliances.

b) The examiner agrees. Davies was relied upon to evidence the convention of sending confirmation signal back to the remote indicating that the device has received and executed as user instruction. Shintani was incorporated to evidence that it is also known to inform a user that the command was not executed wherein Shintani receives confirmation of a valid signal, an error signal for an invalid instruction signal, and also a signal which indicates that additional input is required to execute the instruction.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3a. Claims 31-47, 49 and 51 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Davies, US 6,753,790 in view of Ben-Ze'ev, US 6,791,467 and Shintani et al., US 6,532,592.

In considering claims 31, 41-42 and 46,

a) *the claimed a host device having a host processor...is met by remote controller (300) which processes received signals, where the system can toggle between reception/transmission (receiver/transmitter) via IR/RF (via toggling 360), utilizing user control input 310/user interface 330, where detector 320 detects whether the remote controller is within a feedback range of a target device.*

*b) the claimed a television processor...* is met by a target device which may be a television set (col 3, line 6-22) where the television set receives/processes the request from the user via the remote controller (300) and when the user is in a location where the confirmation via a "line-of sight" is not possible, the TV sends a signal back confirming that the control signal was successfully sent to and executed by the target device (col 1, line 53-62).

However, Davies does not explicitly recite a "plurality of dispersed televisions" (limitation b), nor determining which televisions (plural) do not transmit the confirmation signals. Davies discloses a system where the user may activate target devices (i.e. audio, video and television devices) where the user can activate and receive confirmation on the remote (via the target device) by being in a different room than the target device.

Although, the use of more than one television is notoriously well known in the art, as also stated by applicant (background pages 1-2), the examiner incorporates Ben-Ze'ev which discloses a single master adaptive remote controller which is able to control the appliances in a household including multiple TV's (Fig 1). Ben-Ze'ev also is able to interrogate the appliances periodically to ascertain their status (on, off etc... (col 9, line 52-59, col 10, line 49-65) and to also receive confirmation that an appliance has executed/Performed a commanded function (col 13, line 44-50).

Regarding the determining which device does not transmit the confirmation signals, the examiner relies upon Shintani, which discloses a remote which receives confirmation signals or error signals, or requests for additional information if unable to execute the current user request. Thus the limitation of which TV doesn't transmit confirmation signals, is met where the TV sends signals which aren't confirmation of the executed function, thereby informing the remote of the status of a user request. Thus when the remote receives other than a confirmation signal back to the remote, the remote acknowledges/display an error or provides any additional information needed to carry out the initial request.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Davies which discloses a system which allows the user to control and receive confirmation from

target devices, by being in a different room than the device, where Davies discloses a separate room may includes a television, with Ben-Ze-ev by allowing the user to interact with all the televisions/target devices in a dwelling (multiple rooms, house), and with Shintani by allowing the user/remote to ascertain the confirmation/execution or not of a user requests, thereby providing the user(s) the ability to control (receive confirmation from or not) all the televisions/target devices the user(s) has/have access to with a single remote control.

In considering claim 32 and 43,

Davies discloses that the command and confirmation signals may be IR or RF (Fig 3), based upon the feedback range where the feedback range, may be an audible hearing distance or a definitive distance (i.e. ten meters) (col 3, line 31-37).

In considering claims 33 and 37,

Davies discloses a remote controller, which operates as the host and peripheral device, where the remote is responsive to a user input to generate a control signal.

In considering claims 34,

Davies does not explicitly disclose the target devices including peripheral devices such VCR and DVD player, and a host device such as a PC. Davies does disclose that target devices such as electronic equipment such as audio and video devices, including televisions, including a remote which may be formed via a PDA (personal digital assistant).

However, Ben-Ze'ev discloses the use of a VCR (Fig 7). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Davies which discloses the control of target devices within/outside of a room, with Ben-Ze'ev by controlling all the devices that are included

in the household (i.e. VCR), thereby giving the user complete control over the target devices he/she has access to in their dwelling.

In considering claims 35,

The combination of Davies/Ben-Ze'ev/Shintani does not disclose the peripheral device comprising a digital video disc player.

However, a digital video disc player is a notoriously well known appliance which is used in conjunction with a TV, thus the examiner takes "OFFICIAL NOTICE" regarding such a peripheral device.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the combination which discloses a system which is able to command/control all the appliances in a household and ascertain the execution of a command/control function, by controlling all appliances including a digital video disc player if available, in order to provide the user control over all available appliances.

In considering claim 36,

Ben-Ze'ev discloses that the remote controller may be part of a PDA (personal digital assistance) device (i.e. personal computer).

In considering claims 38 and 47,

*The claimed processor* is met by the television, which receives, transmits and processes the signals between the target devices and the remote.

Although, the combination does not explicitly disclose a timer, Davies discloses the control via transmission/reception of peripheral devices, which are integrated into the entertainment system, thereby being able to control multiple devices in a logical/desired sequence. Ben-Ze'ev does disclose a "predetermined period" in the time period to wait for a receipt from an appliance/external device (col 11, line 2-14).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the combination which discloses the confirmation of an executed operation, by confirming to the user in a desired time period (i.e. using a timer) where conformation maybe within any user desired preset reasonable time (i.e. meeting the claimed .1 or .5 seconds) to inform the user that the command executed has been performed.

In considering claims 39-40, 42 and 45,

The combination does not explicitly recite the confirmation signals comprising a 1200 baud, 8 bits byte, 1 start bit, 1 stop bit, no parity format packet modulated onto a 40 KHz carrier wave, including a command identifier byte, data value byte and check sum byte.

There are multitude of interfaces available to the user/designer, i.e. RS-232, RS-422, RS-423 and RS-485, of course based upon the needs of the user and equipment/peripheral devices being used.

Thus the examiner takes "OFFICIAL NOTICE" regarding the use of a signal, which may include the parameters as claimed, since there are a multitude of conventional transmission/reception schemes available to a designer/user. The examiner also requests the applicant to provide the inventive steps regarding the claimed subject (i.e. is the applicant claiming this is a novel transmission/reception scheme, which was never used/known by others before the applicant discovered it?). The examiner's position is based upon conventional software/hardware which is purchased off the shelf can perform the reception/transmission scheme including that which is claimed.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Davies/Ben-Ze'ev which discloses the control of target devices of an entertainment system which may be located in or outside the room of the user, by transmitting/receiving the control/confirmation signals by a conventional/off the shelf protocol scheme.

In considering newly added claims 49 and 51,

The combination discloses the conventional capability of a remote changing a channel on a TV/appliance.

Ben-Ze'ev further discloses that this information (status information indicating channel number) may be updated by the user via remote where the user may use the remote to update the appliance to record at a particular time/channel and also ascertain the current status of such devices (i.e. currently recording channel 5).

***Conclusion***

4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian Yenke whose telephone number is (571)272-7359. The examiner work schedule is Monday-Thursday, 0730-1830 hrs.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's Supervisor, David L. Ometz, can be reached at (571)272-7593.

**Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

**or faxed to:**

**(571)-273-8300**

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703)305-HELP.

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For other technical patent information needs, the Patent Assistance Center can be reached through customer service representatives at the above numbers, Monday through Friday (except federal holidays) from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST/EDT.

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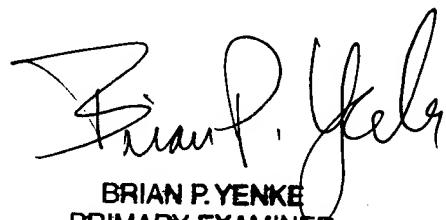
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B.P.Y  
27 April 2007



BRIAN P. YENKE  
PRIMARY EXAMINER